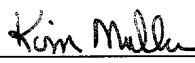


FORM PTO-1390 (REV 10-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				TS 9183 US
				U.S. APPLICATION NO (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP99/09794		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 8 December 1999	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 9 December 1998	
<b>TITLE OF INVENTION.</b> <b>TRANSPONDER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM</b>				
<b>APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US</b> Edmondson, Jon, Bert				
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:				
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).				
<b>Items 11 to 16 below concern document(s) or information included:</b>				
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: -postcard for date stamping purposes only				
U.S. APPLICATION NO (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP99/09794	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER TS9183 US	

09/857607

JC18 Rec'd PCT/US 07 JUN 2001

17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
<b>Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):</b>			
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO .....\$1000.00			
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO .....\$860.00			
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO .....\$710.00			
international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....\$690.00			
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....\$100.00			
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT</b> =		\$860.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$860.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total Claims	8 - 20 =	0	x \$ 18.00 \$
Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$ 80.00 \$
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)		+\$270.00 \$	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS</b> =		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.		\$	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b> =		\$860.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		\$	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE</b> =		\$	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property)		\$	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED</b> =		\$	
		Amount to be refunded:	
		charged:	\$860.00
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ cover the above fees is enclosed.			
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>19-1800</u> in the amount of \$ <u>860 00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>19-1800</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:			
Kimbley L. Muller SHELL OIL COMPANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY P. O. BOX 2463 HOUSTON, TX 77252-2463 713-241-2698 713-241-6617		 SIGNATURE <u>Kimbley L. Muller</u> NAME <u>27,577</u> REGISTRATION NUMBER	

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of )  
 )  
EDMONSON, JON, BERT )  
 )  
Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP99/09794 )  
 )  
Int. Filing Date: 8 December 1999 )  
 )  
TRANSPONDER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM) 8 June 2001  
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Please enter the Article 34 Amendment before entering of the Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend claims 1-8.

1. (Once Amended) A unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit, further characterized in that the unit further comprises means responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal for emitting externally of the unit.

2. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 1, wherein the unit is contained within a housing including one or more batteries for powering the transponder section and the data processing section.

3. (Once Amended) A unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and visual output for the user of the unit, further characterized in that the unit is contained within a housing including one or more batteries for powering the transponder section and the data processing section.

4. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 3, wherein the unit further comprises means responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal for emitting externally of the unit.

5. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 3, wherein the means for providing an audio and/or visual output at least includes means for providing an aural output.

6. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 3, wherein the means for receiving an input from a user and to initiate a signal from the transponder section for communicating the user input to the remote station.

7. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 6 further comprising a keypad or keyboard for generating the user input.

8. (Once Amended) The unit of claim 3 further comprising means for linking it to an external device, which external device is operable by the user to generate inputs to the unit.

Respectfully submitted,  
EDMONDSON, JON, BERT

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Attorney, Kimbley L. Muller  
Reg. No. 27,577  
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Houston, Texas 77252-2463

## MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A unit [(1)] for providing messages emanating from a remote station [(2)] to a user, comprising a transponder section [(10)] for communicating with the remote station [(2)] by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section [(30)], wherein the transponder section [(10)] includes means [(19)] for storing an identification code[, means (16)] that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station [(2)] to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means [(16)] that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means [(20)] for providing the incoming data to the data processing section [(30)], and wherein the data processing section [(30)] includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit [(1)], further characterized in that the unit [(1)] further comprises means [(40)] responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal [(41)] for emitting externally of the unit [(1)].
2. (Once Amended) The unit [according to] of claim 1, wherein the unit [(1)] is contained within a housing including one or more batteries [(22,39)] for powering the transponder section [(10)] and the data processing section [(30)].
3. (Once Amended) A unit [(1)] for providing messages emanating from a remote station [(2)] to a user, comprising a transponder section [(10)] for communicating with the remote station [(2)] by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section [(30)], wherein the transponder section [(10)] includes means [(19)] for storing an identification code, means [(16)] that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station [(2)] to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means [(16)] that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means [(20)] for providing the incoming data to the data processing section [(30)], and wherein the data processing section [(30)] includes means for providing an audio [and/or] and visual output for the user of the unit [(1)], further characterized in that the unit [(1)] is contained within a housing including

one or more batteries [(22, 39)] for powering the transponder section [(10)] and the data processing section [(30)].

4. (Once Amended) The unit [according to] of claim 3, wherein the unit [(1)] further comprises means [(40)] responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal [(41)] for emitting externally of the unit [(1)].

5. (Once Amended) The unit [according to any one of the preceding claims] of claim 3, wherein the means for providing an audio and/or visual output at least includes means [(36)] for providing an aural output.

6. (Once Amended) The unit [according to any one of the preceding claims including] of claim 3, wherein the [including] means [(46)] for receiving an input from a user and to initiate a signal from the transponder section [(10)] for communicating the user input to the remote station [(2)].

7. (Once Amended) The unit [according to] of claim 6 further comprising a keypad or keyboard [(48)] for generating the user input.

8. (Once Amended) The unit [according to any one of the preceding claims] of claim 3 further comprising means for linking it to an external device, which external device is operable by the user to generate inputs to the unit [(1)].

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- 1 -

(54)

TS 9183 PCT

TRANSPOUNDER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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This invention relates to a unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user. The unit can be carried in a vehicle or it can be carried by the user. The communication is wireless, that is by a mode that requires no tangible communication circuit between the fixed and mobile stations.

International patent application publication No. 95/01 607 discloses a unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit.

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In International patent application publication No. 98/25 248 a radio frequency identification system is described that is applied to a vehicle in which there is an on-board computer system for monitoring and reporting parameters relating to various engine functions in combination with radio frequency identification transponder circuitry linked to the computer by a serial bus. The radio frequency identification system communicates with a fixed interrogator over a radio link.

AMENDED SHEET

The radio frequency identification circuit has a unique identification code. In response to a signal from the interrogator the radio frequency identification circuit responds by identifying itself and parameter data is sent to the interrogator through the radio frequency identification transponder.

International patent application publication No. 98/05 171 describes a radio frequency identification device with adjustable receiver sensitivity. It discloses the implementation of this type of device in a compact form, such as in an identification card, using a thin profile button-type battery. USA patent specification No. 5 448 110 also addresses the problems of fabricating a compact radio frequency identification transceiver assembly in a low profile, flat, form. It discloses the possibility of transferring into an internal memory data received from a remote external interrogator and transmitting data stored in the internal memory.

The present invention is concerned with apparatus in a vehicle which enables information or entertainment and messages in general to be provided to the driver or other occupants of the vehicle.

The invention has been developed in connection with particular circumstances in which communications with the interior of the vehicle is difficult, for example in a car wash where the car radio aerial is retracted, the car is closed up. It is difficult to reliably supply information or entertainment at this point. The other circumstance is where the ignition is switched off leaving the car radio inoperative.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a unit that allows making audio messages available through audio equipment installed in the vehicle.

According to the present invention there is provided a unit for providing messages emanating from a remote

station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit, characterized in that the unit further comprises means responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal for emitting externally of the unit.

Another circumstance is where the ignition is switched off leaving the car radio inoperative and the electrical system of the vehicle is dead. Therefore a further object of the present invention is to provide a self-contained unit.

To this end the present invention provides a unit for providing messages emanating from a remote station to a user, comprising a transponder section for communicating with the remote station by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section, wherein the transponder section includes means for storing an identification code, means that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means for providing the incoming data to the data processing section, and wherein the data processing section includes

means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit, characterized in that the unit is contained within a housing including one or more batteries for powering the transponder section and the data processing section.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a system incorporating a unit in accord with the invention; and

Figures 2A, 2B and 2C show diagrams of modifications to the processing section of the unit of Figure 1.

The embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figure 1 will be described in the context of a unit intended to be mounted in a vehicle, and more particularly within the saloon of the vehicle, to provide messages of various kinds to the driver or other occupant of the vehicle. The wireless mode of communication assumed for purposes of illustration is a radio link which may be one using spread spectrum techniques to enhance security and the selective communication of the fixed or remote station with a desired vehicle unit. Wireless links include, in addition to radio, magnetic induction, sound waves, particularly ultrasonic, and optical, e.g. infra-red. The radio communication between the fixed station and the vehicle unit in the system to be described, uses very low power. In many countries frequency bands are assigned for low power, short range, communication without the necessity of licensing.

The circuit to be described is constructed as a self-contained unit 1. The unit 1 is located within a housing or case adapted to be mounted or attached at a suitable location within the vehicle. The unit 1 can be broadly considered in two parts, a transponder section 10 for communicating with a remote station 2 and a data processing section 30 for providing an audio output to the

vehicle occupant. The remote station 2 radiates radio signals through antenna 3 and may be linked as at 4 to a central network. The unit 1 is intended to provide audio and/or visual information or entertainment or messages in general to the driver or other vehicle occupants. The description that follows will initially concentrate on an audio output. The transponder section 10 communicates with the remote station 2 by a radio link.

The transponder section 10 includes a receiver/transmitter unit 12 providing a transceiver facility for receiving and transmitting radio signals through an antenna 14 contained within the housing. A transponder microprocessor 16 has associated with it a memory 18 storing an identification code, specific to the transponder section 10, permanently resident in a section 19 of memory 18. The transfer of data between the unit 1 and the remote station 2 may be accomplished using a packet mode of transmission.

The transponder microprocessor 16 implements the program routines controlling the transponder section 10. These routines may be stored in memory 18 or elsewhere. The memory 18 may be on-chip or separate from the transponder microprocessor 16.

The transponder section 10 also has a data port 20, e.g. a serial port, through which data is sent to the processing section 30. As will be described later the data communication through the data port 20 may be made bi-directional to add interactive facilities for the user. The unit 1 is self-powered so that it includes at least one battery 22 and 39 for powering the transponder and processing sections 10 and 30. The battery requirements are discussed further below. As illustrated the transponder section 10 has its own battery 22.

In operation, when it is in range the transponder section 10 responds to an interrogation signal from remote

station 2 that is sent continuously or at regular intervals. The interrogation signal is recognised by the transponder microprocessor 16 and it responds by causing

ART 34 AMST

incoming data will be in the form of compressed data files, so that memory space (random access memory, or RAM) will be required in any event in connection with the expansion and decoding of the compressed data files. The 5 data stream may also need decryption where data is sent from the remote station in an encrypted form. This process may be implemented to allow playing of portions of the audio or video message while the remainder is still being decoded. The illustrated processing section 30 contains 10 its own battery 39 which has to be of sufficient capacity to power the audio output stage 34 to drive a small speaker 36. It will be appreciated that since the transponder section 10 and the processing section 30 are intended to be parts of a single unit 1, a single battery 15 may be used to power both sections 10 and 30.

To exemplify one use of the unit 1 described thus far, it can be used to provide information or music within a vehicle going through a car wash. A remote station 2 in the form of a fixed interrogator unit can be mounted 20 adjacent the entry to the car wash to activate and identify the unit 1, and to address a data stream to it. This data stream can be decoded immediately to play the message or music while the vehicle is going through the car wash. Another possibility is to load the data stream 25 elsewhere in a service station so that it is available should the vehicle then enter the car wash facility. The data stream is stored in memory and a trigger signal is provided on entering the car wash to cause the message/music to be played. In this case a remote station 30 may be located at the entry to the car wash to transmit an appropriate trigger signal recognised by the transponder section 10 to initiate playback of the stored message.

35 It will be realised that the above-described unit 1 is capable of providing the aural output for the vehicle occupant even in circumstances where the ignition is

turned off and the electrical system of the vehicle is dead. Even if the electrical power is available within the vehicle, the self-contained nature of the unit 1 means that it functions without reliance on other electrical equipment within the vehicle together with any special provision that may need to be made to link the unit 1 to other electrically-powered equipment. An advantage of such a unit is that it can be used both inside a vehicle as well as outside the vehicle. The inter-activity with the user then can include providing information on the position, making notes, making hotel reservations.

However, it is envisaged that for audio messages, advantage could be taken of audio equipment installed in the vehicle. Figure 2A shows that the unit 1 further comprises means in the form of a very low power frequency modulation or FM transmitter 40 which is responsive to the output of the processing microprocessor 32. The means 40 generate a modulated signal 41 for emitting externally of the unit 1.

Figures 2B and 2C also indicate other modifications. Figure 2B shows the possibility of using a visual display arrangement 42 within the unit 1, such as one using a liquid crystal display mounted to a wall of the housing to display visual messages externally of the housing. This could be done in addition to or instead of the audio message output described above.

Another development is to provide some inter-activity from within the vehicle; for example by selection of options presented to the occupant. People are used to exercising options via key-pad operated devices. Figure 2C shows a modification in which the processing microprocessor 32 provides an output to the user via an output device generally indicated as 44 (this may be audio and/or visual) and there is provided an input port

AMT 34 AMST  
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or interface 46 within processing section 30 which is connected to

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AMENDED SHEET

30. 10. 2000

ART 34 AMST

TS 9183 PCT

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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A unit (1) for providing messages emanating from a remote station (2) to a user, comprising a transponder section (10) for communicating with the remote station (2) by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section (30), wherein the transponder section (10) includes means (19) for storing an identification code, means (16) that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station (2) to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means (16) that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means (20) for providing the incoming data to the data processing section (30), and wherein the data processing section (30) includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit (1), characterized in that the unit (1) further comprises means (40) responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal (41) for emitting externally of the unit (1).

2. The unit according to claim 1, wherein the unit (1) is contained within a housing including one or more batteries (22, 39) for powering the transponder section (10) and the data processing section (30).

3. A unit (1) for providing messages emanating from a remote station (2) to a user, comprising a transponder section (10) for communicating with the remote station (2) by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section (30), wherein the transponder section (10) includes means (19) for storing an identification code, means (16) that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station (2) to emit an identification

APR 24 AMDT

signal bearing the identification code, means (16) that  
are responsive to incoming data signals including an  
address code, which may be the same as or derived from the  
identification code, and means (20) for providing the  
5 incoming data to the data processing section (30), and  
wherein the data processing section (30) includes means  
for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user  
of the unit (1), characterized in that the unit (1) is  
contained within a housing including one or more  
10 batteries (22, 39) for powering the transponder section  
(10) and the data processing section (30).

4. The unit according to claim 3, wherein the unit (1)  
further comprises means (40) responsive to the audio  
output to generate a modulated signal (41) for emitting  
15 externally of the unit (1).

5. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the means for providing an audio and/or visual  
output at least includes means (36) for providing an aural  
output.

20 6. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims  
including means (46) for receiving an input from a user  
and to initiate a signal from the transponder section (10)  
for communicating the user input to the remote  
station (2).

25 7. The unit according to claim 6 further comprising a  
keypad or keyboard (48) for generating the user input.

8. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims  
further comprising means for linking it to an external  
device, which external device is operable by the user to  
30 generate inputs to the unit (1).

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Fig.1.

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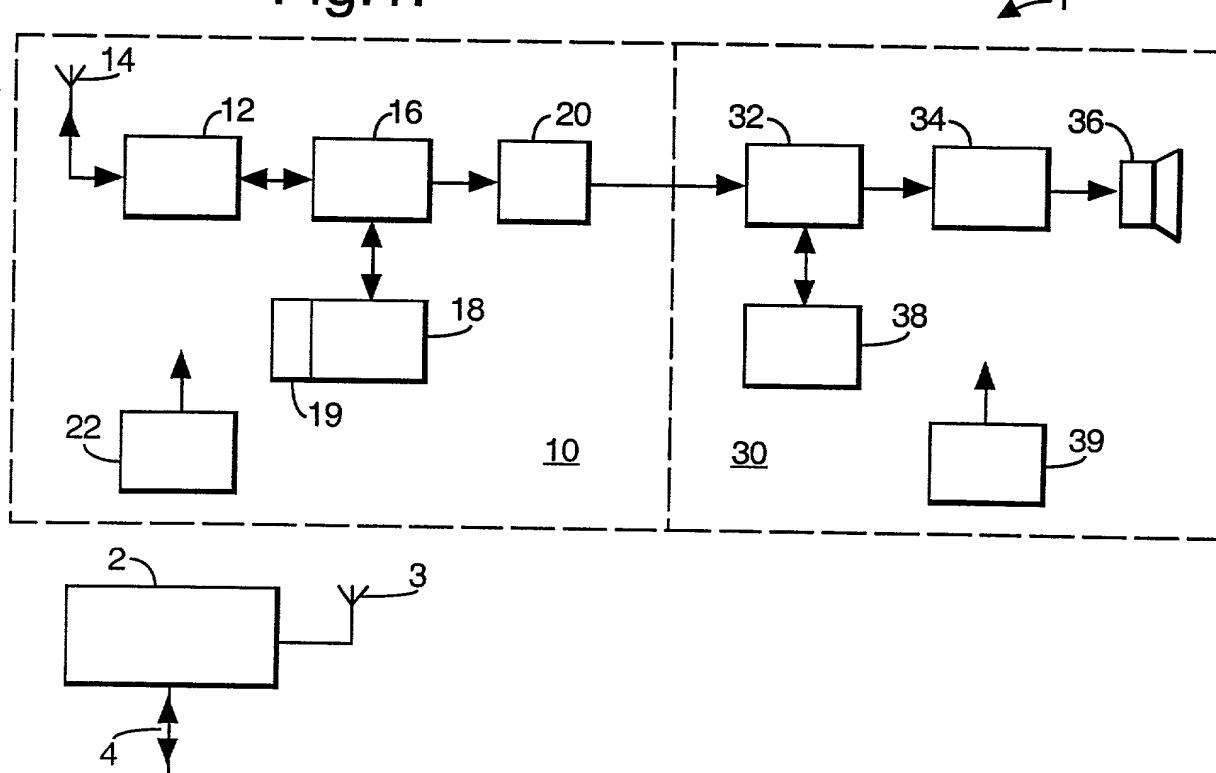


Fig.2A.

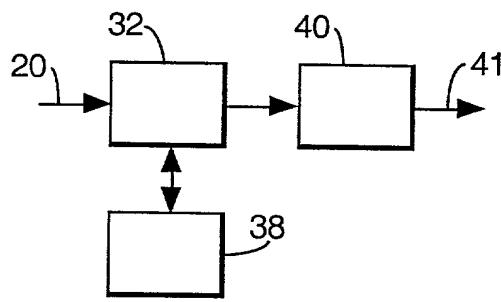


Fig.2B.

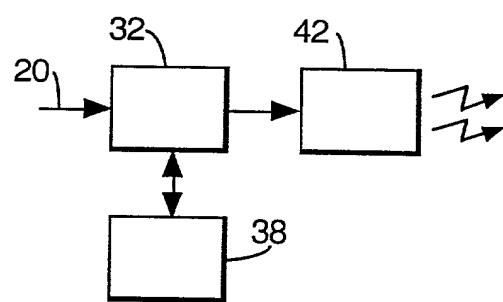
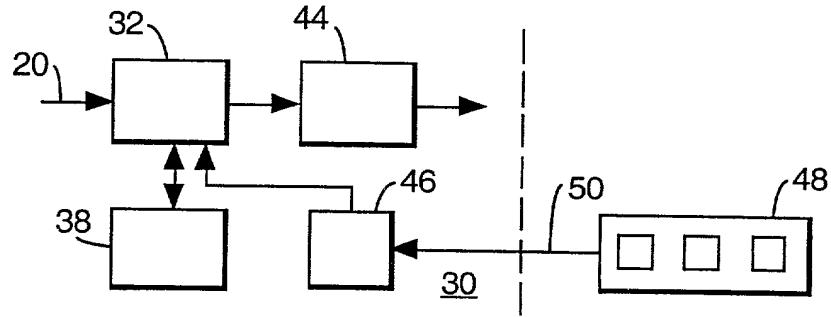


Fig.2C.



# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

TRANSPONDER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

unless the following box is checked: \_\_\_\_\_ the specification of which is attached hereto

was filed on 8 December 1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/EP99/09794 and was amended on 30 October 2000 (if applicable). and 22 November 2000

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

## PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority  
Not Claimed

APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED
<u>98310082.7</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>09 December 1998</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS-PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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Revised June 1995

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# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR (given name, family name)

**EDMONDSON, Jon Bert**

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE



1999

21st October

DATE SIGNED

*21 OCT 1999*

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DATE SIGNED

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